

In the Claims:

1.-13. (canceled)

14. (new) Nail clippers, comprising:

- a. a lower tray;
- b. first side dam extending upwardly from a first side of said lower tray, said first side dam having a generally vertical slot in an interior thereof;
- c. a second side dam extending upwardly from a second side of said lower tray that is opposite said first side of said lower tray, said second side dam having a generally vertical slot in an interior thereof;
- d. an upper jaw that is displaceable relative to said lower tray;
- e. a blade that is pivotally mounted to a lower portion of said upper jaw, said blade extending below said upper jaw and into said generally vertical slot in said first side dam and said generally vertical slot of said second side dam, wherein said blade travels in said generally vertical slot in said first side dam and said generally vertical slot in said second side dam when said upper jaw is displaced relative to said lower tray.

15 (new) Nail clippers as described in Claim 14, wherein said blade travels in said generally vertical slot in said first side dam and said generally vertical slot in said

second side dam and generally perpendicularly to said lower tray when said when said upper jaw is displaced relative to said lower tray.

- 16 (new) Nail clippers as described in Claim 14, wherein said lower tray has a bottom floor, and said bottom floor has a slot in an interior thereof that receives substantially all of a lower cutting edge of said blade within said slot.
17. (new) Nail clippers as described in Claim 14, wherein a pivotal mounting for mounting said blade to a lower portion of said upper jaw is directly above said generally vertical slot in said first side dam .
18. (new) Nail clippers as described in Claim 14, wherein said cutting blade has a lower cutting surface having a concave shape, and wherein said lower tray has a bottom floor, and said bottom floor has a corresponding convex shape that engages said lower cutting surface of said cutting blade.
19. (new) Nail clippers as described in Claim 14, further comprising a second pivotal mounting that pivotally mounts said upper jaw relative to said lower tray.

20. (new) Nail clippers as described in Claim 19, wherein said second pivotal mounting comprises an axle that traverses a length of a first mounting slot, and a guide pin that traverses a length of a second mounting slot.
21. (new) Nail clippers as described in Claim 20, wherein said axle has a first flat side that engages said slot and a second flat side that engages said slot.
22. (new) Nail clippers as described in Claim 14, wherein said first side dam extends outwardly and beyond said blade at an angle of 30° to 60° from a longitudinal centerline, and wherein said second side dam extends outwardly and beyond said blade at an angle of 30° to 60° from said longitudinal centerline.
23. (new) Nail clippers as described in Claim 14, wherein said a front portion of said upper jaw moves rearwardly and downwardly as said blade is displaced toward said lower tray.
24. (new) Nail clippers as described in Claim 14, wherein said blade is positioned generally vertically relative to a bottom floor of said lower tray at all points of travel of said blade as said blade is displaced toward said lower tray.